

BOWSER IS LOST.

But He Turns Up Again to Explain Things.

At 5 minutes to 8 o'clock the other evening, Mrs. Bowser began listening for the foot-steps of Mr. Bowser. An umbrella mender came along, but his voice was different. The agent of a soap warranted to prevent clothes from wearing out rang the basement bell, but Mr. Bowser came not. A tramp called and asked for a dime to help him to South America with, but the old familiar footstep sounded not. Six o'clock and no Mr. Bowser. The winter winds moaned mournfully and Mrs. Bowser thought of the dead killed by street cars and autos. A quarter after 8, and the cook came upstairs to say that she had seen many mysterious in her life, but none to compare with this. Was the Black Hand in it? Had Mr. Bowser received threatening letters and refused to come down with the dough?



O. MRS. BOWSER, EH?

Six-thirty, and no step and no Bowser. The morning of the wind thickened. So did the plot. It was just possible that Mr. Bowser had called a street car conductor a liar, and that both had got off the car to have it out, but if not that what could it be? At 7 o'clock Mrs. Bowser went down to dinner alone, but she had no appetite. She sat at table and thought of how she might have saved on the gas and coal. Depend upon it, Mr. Bowser was sticking when she could have made the 22 cent ones do, and presently she found tears streaming down her cheeks. She loved Mr. Bowser, but until that moment she had not realized how much.

The cook came in and by way of comfort said she had a brother who failed to come home one night, and after three days' search he was found in the rear room of a cigar store. He had gone there and made a kick about their three-for-fives and they had saved his head off. Depend upon it, Mr. Bowser was lying somewhere with his head separated from his body. Never more would he come home to kick the front gate open.

At 7:15 o'clock Mrs. Bowser went upstairs and called police headquarters on the telephone. The reply was: "No, no murders have been reported, but we are expecting one every minute. Will call you up later."

At 7:30 the call came. An old woman had been run over by a brewer wagon—a boy had shot himself in the hand—a married man had eloped—an old gentleman had broken his neck while trying to bow to a chorus girl in the street, but nothing to explain the Bowser mystery.

"Did he get swizzled now and then?" "Was his a happy home?" "Had she, Mrs. Bowser, called him a liar just as he was leaving home that morning?"

"Had she any suspicions that he was struck on some other woman?" "That he seemed off his head for a few days past?"

Mrs. Bowser answered the above questions and then sat down and wept. She had been pretty good, but she could have been better to Mr. Bowser. For instance, when he wanted to buy a chicken farm, it was her duty to have been enthusiastic about it, instead of figuring out that he was bound to lose \$2,000 a year. His mangled remains were being hidden by the falling snow, now, and her conscience was crying out.

Eight o'clock, and no Bowser. The cook came upstairs and said that she once had a sister who started out to buy a 49 cent corset and was missing for months and months. Finally a man about to be hanged for murder confessed that he had decoyed the woman into a cooper shop to get a glass of soda, and that while she was drinking it and exclaiming "yum yum!" between swallows he struck her seven blows with a five-cent tack hammer, and then sold her body for a mummy. Could Mr. Bowser be enticed? Did he ever drink soda water? If he saw a blow from a tack hammer coming could he sidestep it? Would anybody buy him for a mummy if he was dead?

Half-past eight, and the strain was becoming intense.

Nine o'clock, and the police telephoned that a man had just leaped from the forty-eighth story of a skyscraper and that his remains had been picked up in a hat. It was supposed to be a case of unrequited love. Might or might not be Mr. Bowser—what did she think?

Half-past nine, and Mrs. Bowser called up the family doctor on the telephone.

"Yes, this is Dr. Soken. What's wanted? Who is it? Oh, Mrs. Bowser, eh. Well, has Bowser started for the North Pole yet? Hasn't come home this evening and you are worried. Don't you go into his over Bowser. Never can tell what he'll do next, you know. Dead? Nonsense! He'll come home all right and explain things. May have stopped somewhere to look at a flying machine. Good-night."

Ten o'clock, and no Bowser. The wind was now moaning like a lost soul. Mrs. Bowser listened to it and wished she had let Mr. Bowser buy that squash farm. He had never been the same since, mentally and she was to blame for it.

The next one came across his frozen remains in a snowdrift. Were they now lifting them up tenderly? Were they now wondering if an extravagant wife had driven the poor man from home? They probably were, and Mrs. Bowser wept and resolved never to pay over 7 cents for another handkerchief.

Eleven o'clock by the booming bells. It had been a night of terrible anxiety. One—two—three boomed the bells, and the cook who had been asleep on the kitchen table came up to go to her room and to bed.

"If he's dead then he is dead and we can't help it. Let us hope that he perished happy, and that his last thought was of us."

Half-past 11, and something bulky fell against the front door and pawed around. Why keep the world on tenterhooks? It was Mr. Bowser. With a great sigh of thankfulness Mrs. Bowser opened the door, reached out for a coat collar and then with a great jerk at it she announced:

"Come in here, young man, and explain yourself!"

Mr. Bowser came in. He made rail fences through the sitting room, dropped into a chair, and after looking around the room in a vacant way, he asked:

"Am I home?"

"Yes."

"Are you Mrs. Bowser?"

"Yes."

"Well, I'll tell you whasher mazzar. I joined club tonight. New club. Club called 'Shober Old Dubs.' Over 40 sober dubs there, and I never had sho much fun in my life. Mrs. Bowser, if you was only Shober Old Dub I'd have you join. Would fr a tack. I wanted to come home, but they wouldn't let me. They stood me on my head when I wanted to come home. Was you crying fr me, Mrs. Bowser?"

"We'll talk this over in the morning," said Mrs. Bowser in severe tones.

"But why not talk it over tonight, when I'm perfectly shober? I may not be in 'er morning. Mrs. Bowser, is that our front door out there?"

"Of course."

"And does it know me?"

"Zhen why did it strike at me and tell me to go way back when I come home?"

Mr. Bowser was assisted up stairs and to bed, and when morning came and Mrs. Bowser started to say something he cut her off with:

"The next time I am out late buying real estate don't make a ninnny of yourself and add two or three dollars to the gas bill. When I came up in the taxi I thought the house was on fire." Copyrighted, 1910, by Associated Literary Press.)

Safest.

Tall Chappy—"I am deucedly superstitious. When I see my taller coming I cross my fingers so he won't ask me for a loan."

Short Chappy—"I-I generally cross the street."

Well! Well!!

Tom—What a beautiful bouquet you have in your lap.

Tess—I beg your pardon, but that's my hat.

Stranger (in Drearhurst)—Is there any place in this town where I can get something to drink? Uncle Welby Gosh—Yes, sir, unless you're mighty blamed hard to please. There's few town pumps, a sulphur well an' half a dozen places where you kin git root beer.—Chicago Tribune.

"Yes," said the great man, "there was a time when I longed to be famous, but that is a thing of the past. 'Why has fame lost its attractions for you?' we asked. 'This morning,' answered the g. m., 'I smoked a cigar that was named after me.'—Chicago News.

"FELL AGAINST THE FRONT DOOR AND PAWED AROUND."

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Socialist Meeting—at 119 West Sixth, upstairs, at 2:30 p. m. Every Sunday.

Monday

K. of P.—Valent Lodge No. 155, at 122 East 6th ave.

K. of P.—Amity Lodge No. 331 at 337 North Kansas ave.

F. O. E.—Topeka Aeris No. 58 at 615 Van Buren.

K. and L. of Security—Victor Council No. 4, at 1002 North Kansas ave.

I. O. Red Men—Shawnee Tribe No. 14, at 113 East 6th ave.

S. & D. of Justice—Topeka Council No. 5, at Security hall.

Fraternal Brotherhood—Topeka Lodge No. 311, at 119 West 6th ave.

Fraternal Union of A—Topeka lodge No. 522, at 522 Kansas ave.

Hod Carriers and Building Laborers Local No. 387, at 618 Kansas ave. Geo. Hagen, secy., 506 East 17th.

Painters Local—No. 96 at 420 Kansas ave., secretary Frank P. Woodruff, 617 Hancock st.

1st Battery at 404-406 Kansas ave.

The Swedish American National League and Norden Benefit Association meets second and fourth, Monday of each month. Fred Isaacson, 157 Gratton street, recorder.

Tuesday

I. O. O. F.—Shawnee Lodge No. (1) at 117 West 6th ave.

K. & L. of Security—Shawnee Council No. 3 at 631 North Kansas ave.

Triple Tie B. A.—Topeka Council No. 9, at Lincoln Post Hall.

K. & L. of Security—Capital Council No. 1 at Security hall.

M. W. of A.—Sunflower Camp No. 536, at 123 West 6th ave.

Knights Protected Ark—Capital Ark No. 60, at 122 East 6th ave.

Owls—Topeka Nest No. 10, at 110 East 6th ave.

Fraternal Aid Ass't.—Topeka Council No. 2, at Security hall.

Topeka Oratorio Soc.—At 107 East 8th ave.

Moulders Union—Local No. 424, at 618 Kansas ave. Secretary, G. L. Whitlock 701 Clay.

Triple Tie Benefit Association, Topeka Council No. 9, meets every Tuesday night in Lincoln Post Hall.

U. B. of Carpenters—Local No. 1445 at 113 Kansas ave. Secretary S. J. Crume, 1402 E 8th st.

K. T.—Topeka Commandery No. 5, at Masonic hall.

O. E. S. Helena Chapel No. 210, meets first and third Tuesday at Masonic Hall, North Kansas ave., M. S. Ogden, Sec.

K. & L. of Honor—Eureka Lodge No. 2843, at 218 West 6th ave.

Ladies' of the Grand Army—Lincoln Circle No. 1, at 118 East 6th ave, at 2:30 p. m.

W. R. C. No. 94 for Topeka Post at 218 West 6th ave.

Colored A. F. & A. M.—Mount Moriah Lodge No. 5 at 404 Kansas ave.

Wednesday

I. O. O. F.—Topeka Lodge No. 40, at 117 West 6th ave.

A. O. U. W.—Capital Lodge No. 3, at 122 East 6th ave.

B. P. O. E.—Topeka Lodge at 204, corner 7th and Jackson.

A. O. U. W.—Star Lodge No. 20, at 831 North Kansas ave.

Degree of Honor—Excelsior Lodge No. 61, at K. P. Hall.

K. O. T. M.—Capital City Tent No. 24, at 119 West 6th ave.

K. and L. of Security—Topeka Council No. 2, at Security hall.

Fraternal Aid—Shawnee Council No. 1, at 1002 North Kansas ave.

Court of Honor—Shawnee District Court No. 515, at 123 West 6th ave.

National Protective Legion—Topeka Lodge No. 2167, at K. of P. hall.

Operative Plasterers—Local No. 10, at 10-11 Office Bldg., E. L. Newberry, Secy., 201 Burr St.

A. F. & A. M.—Topeka Lodge No. 17, at Masonic hall.

L. O. T. M.—Topeka Progressive Hive No. 26, at 118 East 6th ave.

S. of V.—Old Abe Camp No. 18 at 218 West 6th ave.

G. U. O. of O. F.—Shawnee Lodge No. 1923 at 418 Kansas ave.

Colored K. T. Cyrene Commandery, No. 3, at 404 Kansas ave.

Saturday

K. of P.—Topeka Lodge No. 38, at 122 West 6th ave.

K. O. T. M.—Topeka Tent No. 18, at Security hall.

Degree of Honor—Charity Lodge No. 26, at 831 North Kansas ave.

Ry. Carmen—Local No. 4, at 618 Kansas ave.

O. E. S. Beulah Chapter No. 34, at Masonic hall.

Pythian Sisters—Capital Temple No. 2, at 122 East 6th ave.

G. A. R.—Lincoln Post No. 1, at 118 East 6th ave.

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